

WOKING

Urban Sanitary District.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT
FOR 1895.

BY
W. WELLINGTON LAKE, D.P.H. (Cantab),

Medical Officer of Health
Medical Officer to the Guildford, Godalming, and Woking
Joint Hospital Board.

Woking :

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ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1895.

TOPCROFT, GUILDFORD,

February 12th, 1896.

The Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Woking.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my second ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

1.—Divisions of the Parish.

For administrative purposes the District is divided into five Wards, each containing the following acreage, and number of houses, and with the following rateable value :—

Ward.	Name.	Acreage.			Houses.	Rateable value
		A.	R.	P.		
Ward No. 1	Station and Maybury	753	2	0	997	£31422 10s.
Ward No. 2	Village and Mayford	2,098	2	12	274	7368 15s.
Ward No. 3	Sutton and Bridley	3,116	1	10	195	6674 0s.
Ward No. 4	Knaphill & Brookwood	1,583	3	17	292	14236 10s.
Ward No. 5	St. John's & Goldsworth	1,336	3	19	266	12997 0s.
Total Rateable Value		£72,698 15s. 0d.				
Total Assessable Value		£48,737 9s. 6d.				

II.—Topography, Geology, Water Supply, &c.

Till the end of 1893, when it was constituted a separate Urban District, Woking was a Parish under the Guildford Rural Sanitary Authority.

The following epitome as to the geological formation, elevations, and general contour of this extensive Parish, will be found interesting.

At the south-eastern end of your District you are only 65 feet above ordnance datum, this being the lowest portion of the Parish. Woking Station stands at 125 feet, and Knaphill, at your north-western extremity, rising to nearly 190 feet. It is, therefore, obvious that the natural fall of the District is towards the River Wey, which is your south-eastern boundary.

Rather more than two-thirds of your area is of Middle and Lower Bagshot bed formation, and in about equal proportions. The middle beds are well seen at Hook Heath and Knaphill, the Station and Maybury Districts being of the lower strata.

The soil of the remaining third of the parish is composed of gravel, Upper Bagshot layer, and alluvium. Gravel is found stretching in a uniform bed nearly half-a-mile wide in the south and south-eastern portions of the District, and is, as it were, a natural filtration area.

The only alluvial deposits are those which (1) follow the course of the Hoe Brook from its entry into the parish at Kemish Ford, to its junction with the Wey near Newark Abbey; and (2) similar deposits accompanying the Wey as it skirts your boundary.

The Upper Bagshot sands are entirely confined to the cemetery at Brookwood and that portion of your Parish which adjoins Pirbright. The surface layers of the Middle and Lower Bagshot sands, although porous are yet very retentive of water, and hence the amount of mist which prevails in the District at certain seasons of the year.

The *Water Supply* is chiefly derived from the (1) mains of the Woking Water Company, and from (2) shallow or surface wells.

1. *The Woking Water Company.*

The Company obtains its supply of water from a well sunk at a point on the northern slope of the Albury Downs, a little to the south of the main road from Epsom, where the chalk is at the surface.

This well was sunk in 1883 to a depth of a little more than 100 feet, from which shaft a large supply of water has since been drawn.

This supply has been augmented by driving horizontal galleries in the chalk in a westerly direction across the slope of the beds, and 30,000 to 40,000 gallons an hour can now be pumped from this station.

In the exceptionally dry summer of 1887, and subsequently, the Company found it advisable to augment its supply by sinking shafts and driving horizontal galleries from them in the chalk south of the village of West Horsley, where an additional pumping station has been erected, increasing the supply by upwards of 200,000 gallons per day, from a length of about 1,800 feet of horizontal galleries.

At a moderate computation, based on the assumption that 8 inches of rainfall per annum can be made available over the Company's gathering ground, the average daily quantity of water eventually available for pumping will exceed 2,000,000 gallons per diem.

The Company's district stretches from the Fox Hills and Chobham Ridges on the west, to Pyrford, Ockham, and to beyond East Horsley on the east, and from the summit of the Hackhurst and Albury Downs on the south, to the villages of Bisley and Horsell on the north.

The supply of water to this Company's district is at present adequate in quantity, and is of undoubtedly good quality, and there is every reasonable prospect of the supply being increased as the consumption increases in the District.

The water has been frequently analysed, with satisfactory results. It is well aërated and free from organic impurity, but it is rather charged with lime salts. One or two of the large institutions in the parish have adopted measures for extracting a great proportion of these salts, so diminishing the hardness and rendering the water all the better adapted for washing and culinary purposes, as well as preventing the furring of pipes and boilers, which takes place with the water not thus treated. The process does not appreciably alter the taste, though it affects the aëration of the water. I cannot help saying it would greatly enhance the value of the water if the Company would itself adopt some process for softening it before supplying the public.

During the past year the extent of new mains laid in the Woking Urban District was 4050 yards, and the number of new services laid was 116.

2. The *Wells* in the district are all shallow, few being more than 20 feet deep, and many much less than that. The water reaching these wells is consequently almost entirely surface water, and is, therefore, easily contaminated by leaky cesspits, &c. This surface water being of a peaty nature acts freely on lead, and the attention of builders ought to be drawn to this fact, so that no lead pipes may be used, as cases of poisoning by that metal taken up in this way have been brought to my notice during the year.

I am of opinion that wherever the Company's mains exist owners of old and new property should be urged to obtain this water supply.

III.—Meteorology.

For the following summary as to the observations in this District I am indebted to Mr. Henry Horncastle, of Lindsaye, Horsell, Woking.

The rainfall 21·04 in. for 1895 was 7·42 in. less than in 1894; the falls in the months of May, June and September alone showing a decrease of 5·35 in. as compared with that for the same months in 1894.

Snow fell only on nine days, the fall being very light, and equal to 0·49 in. of rain. Exceptionally high winds occurred in January, November, and December. Although thunderstorms were often observed at a distance, they only actually occurred here on May 30th, August 10th and 22nd, and September 7th. The month of February will be remembered as one of the driest and coldest on record, the minimum temperature recorded on the 7th being 3 degrees (29 degrees of frost), and only one degree higher on the 8th and 9th. There were only two days during the month when the minimum thermometer recorded more than 32 degrees. Rain fell this month only on four days, and equalled 0·14 inches. The month of September was exceptionally warm and dry, the maximum thermometer recording 86 degrees on the 27th, and the minimum 35 degrees on the 27th and 28th. Rain, equal to 0·89 in., fell only on four days.

The highest reading (corrected) of barometer during the year was 30·63, and the lowest (corrected) was 28·95.

The maximum temperature was 86 degrees, and the mean 58·94, whilst the minimum temperature was 3 degrees, and the mean 39·81. The mean maximum and minimum was 49·28.

The amount of rain registered each month at Lindsaye, Horsell, and Pyrford Vicarage, respectively was as follows :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Lindsaye, Horsell	1·91	0·14	1·27	1·32	0·43	0·28	4·16	2·30	0·89	3·05	3·29	2·00	21·04
Pyrford Vicarage	1·79	0·00	1·00	1·63	0·29	0·26	4·35	2·33	1·10	2·92	3·25	2·00	20·97

IV.—Vital Statistics : Births and Deaths.

1. Supposing the *Population* of the Parish had been increasing at the same rate during the past year as it had during the previous intercensal period, it would be estimated during the middle of the year at 8856, exclusive of the 2010 inmates of the Public Institutions enumerated below ; or, exclusive of this latter population, one person per acre.

As a matter of fact, the population of Woking has grown at a greater rate during the four years ending June, 1895, than in any previous similar period, and nearly every habitable house was occupied ; and I gather from the rate-book, on the basis of there being five people to a house, that the *Population* may be more correctly estimated at 10,120, exclusive of the inmates of Public Institutions. On a similar basis the Population of each ward would be :—(1) Station and Maybury 4,985, (2) Village and Mayford 1,370, (3) Sutton and Bridley 975, (4) Knaphill and Brookwood 1,460, (5) St. John's and Goldsworth 13,30.

In addition to this *Population*, there were living in Public Institutions a total of 2010 people, namely :—(1) Brookwood Asylum and its staff quarters, 1250 ; (2) Woking Female Prison and its staff quarters, 350 ; (3) Mayford Industrial School and its staff quarters, 200 ; (4) St. Peter's Home, 110. This makes a grand total of 10,766.

In the last quarter of the year the Prison was abolished, and the staff and prisoners transferred to Aylesbury. The male Prison, which had been empty for some years, was converted into the new Inkerman Barracks, and at the end of the year a battalion of the Royal West Surrey Regiment, with a population of some 850 occupied these quarters.

2. The number of *Births* registered in the parish during the year was 289. The *Birth-rate* for the year, therefore, was 32·6 per 1000 of the population, estimated at 8856.

3. During the year the number of *Deaths* registered in the parish, exclusive of those which occurred in the Public Institutions, was 134, to which must be added ten deaths in the Guildford Workhouse,[†] the Royal Surrey County Hospital, ~~and~~ of persons belonging to the parish. These 144 deaths represent an *Annual Death-rate* of 16·2 per 1000 of the population, estimated at 8856.

If the population were estimated on the basis of five persons to a house—that is 10,120, which appears to be the more correct estimate—then the *Death-rate* would be only 14·2.

4. As to the *Mortality among Children*, the deaths of infants under one year were 54 in number, and were equal to 12 per cent of the registered births.

5. The deaths from *Pulmonary Consumption* (eight in number) were at the rate of ·9 per 1000 of the estimated population; while the deaths from *other lung disease* (bronchitis, pleurisy, and pneumonia) were seventeen in number, and were at the rate of nearly 2 per 1000 of the estimated population.

(See also *Tables I, II, and III, at the end of the Report*).

V.—Summary of Sickness and Mortality from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases, and from certain other Diseases, which have to be Notified under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, and of the action taken for preventing their spread.

1. *Small-pox.*

There was no case in the District during the year.

2. *Scarlet Fever*, otherwise called *Scarlatina*.

There were only four houses invaded during the year, with a total of nine patients, seven of whom were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

Seven of the cases were clearly traced to causes outside the District—and of the two other cases one occurred at the Woking Prison, outside the Authority's jurisdiction, and the other was the case of a gardener in the Maybury Ward who had scarlet fever five years ago and was then treated in the Metropolitan Asylum Board's Hospital at Stockwell.

Of the other seven cases five occurred in a row of cottages in Poole Road, Station Ward, in July. The first case developed the day after the eldest girl returned from Portsmouth. All the children went to the Hospital, and I cut off the whole row of cottages from school attendance. The remaining two cases were in Nurses belonging to the Hanover Institute of Nurses, London, and occurred in the months of January and November respectively. They had both been nursing scarlet fever patients in Bucks. and travelled to the Institute's "Quarantine" Cottage, at Woking, the one, from High Wycombe, with the rash well out upon her, and the other, from Maidenhead, in the incubative stage and with a sore throat; the rash developed shortly after her arrival. In the former case action was taken under Sec. 126 of the Public Health Act, and in the latter the Local Government Board have been communicated with, but their reply had not been received before the end of the year.

As to the first case the nurse had been in the employ of a brewer at High Wycombe, where neither the Infectious Diseases Notification Act was in force, nor was there any Isolation Hospital. The nurse developed scarlet fever while nursing this gentleman's children who were suffering from the disease. He at once sent her away, and she travelled by train to Paddington, crossed London in a cab to Waterloo and thence proceeded by train to Woking, travelling with other passengers. In March both the brewer and the nurse were summoned before the Guildford County Magistrates:—(1) The former was charged under Sec. 126 of the Public Health Act for exposing herself in public streets and conveyances, whilst suffering from a dangerous infectious disease. (2) The latter was charged under the same Section in that being in charge of the person (the nurse) he so exposed such sufferer. The case against the nurse was withdrawn as the brewer was convicted and fined the maximum penalty of £5.

3. *Diphtheria.*

In March two adult sisters came from Send, with sore throats, and the next day they were notified as suffering from Diphtheria. The attacks appear to have been very mild, or even doubtful, for they were out of doors a few days afterwards. With the exception of a case reported in November, 1894, where the patient came from Kensal Green, suffering with the disease, these were the only notifications of diphtheria in Woking since May 1894—a period of nineteen months.

4. *Enteric Fever*, otherwise called *Typhoid Fever*.

There were altogether fifteen notifications of this disease:—
(a) three in private houses; (b) one in the Mayford Industrial School;
(c) one in the Brookwood Asylum; and (d) ten in St. Peter's Home.

(a) Private Houses:—The first case was at Knaphill in the month of May and the drinking water from a shallow well was found to be highly polluted. The second case was reported in December, from the Station Ward, and the patient, a child under five years of age, came from Essex, in the incubating stage. The third case was also reported in December, and the patient was also a young child and lived in the St. John's Ward. The origin of this last case could not be traced.

(b) Mayford Industrial School:—There was one notification in May. Neither the Medical Officer of the School nor myself could satisfactorily trace the origin, but it should be mentioned that the contractor had been supplying other milk than his own.

(d). St. Peter's Home:—On the 4th of June a case of enteric fever was notified to me and proved to be the precursor of a severe epidemic in this Institution. There was a series of altogether ten cases in the Building itself between that date and August 2nd, one of which proved fatal; and two others contracted the disease in July, shortly after leaving the Home. I paid several visits to the Home, and made exhaustive enquiries as to the water, milk, meat and vegetable supplies, and found them absolutely free from suspicion. A careful inspection

of the drains and drainage disposal system proved them to be very badly planned and defectively carried out. Syphonage of traps, extensive leakages in pipes and defective ventilation of drains brought about the infection of the building with sewer gas, originating in a most disgusting accumulation of sewage at the leakages, or at the distant extremity of the system. The system probably became impregnated with typhoid germs by two patients admitted to the Home, in the month of March, supposed to be convalescent from enteric fever, but who, from subsequent enquiry, could not have been free from infection, and in my opinion, through the above mentioned defects, the drainage system thus brought about the epidemic.

The steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease were cutting off the drainage system, and emptying the Home of all the inmates except those suffering from the disease and those in attendance upon them.

In the month of November I presented to the Sanitary Committee an exhaustive report of the epidemic, which was published by the Council and copies sent to the Local Government Board and Surrey County Council.

Before the end of the year the Governing Committee of the Home were carrying on extensive alterations with a view to putting the Building in a sanitary condition, and they decided not to re-open the Home till these works are completed.

5. *Measles.*

Measles were rather prevalent throughout the year, particularly so in the month of February, when the Maybury and Westfield Board Schools were closed. There were four deaths, one in each of the months of April, May, October and November.

6. *Whooping Cough.*

This was very prevalent in the first quarter of the year, reaching its maximum in March, after which there was a marked decline. There were no less than sixteen deaths during the year, thirteen of which occurred in the first quarter and three in the next. Fourteen deaths occurred in infants under 22 months of age, and two in children at the age of 3 years.

7. *Diarrhœa.*

Diarrhœa caused five deaths in children under five years of age.

The total *Deaths* from these seven zymotic diseases were 25, namely, 5 from Diarrhœa, 16 from Whooping Cough, and 4 from Measles. The annual *Zymotic Death Rate* was therefore equal to 2·8 per 1000 of the population.

As to other diseases which have to be notified under the above mentioned Act:—

There was no case of *Puerperal Fever* during the year.

Of *Erysipelas* there were nine cases in three premises, seven of which were in old people in the Brookwood Asylum.

Two cases of blood poisoning, which were the subject of an Inquest, (see Section viii. page 20) might have come under the heading of erysipelas.

Note on Influenza. It may be mentioned here that Influenza, which though really zymotic, is not yet added to the above list, was very prevalent in the severe winter months of February and March, and caused seven deaths. The Westfield Schools were closed during these months on account of its prevalence.

OTHER MEASURES TAKEN FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(1) I have visited all the cases notified above, with the exception of a few cases of erysipelas, and in all cases have been particularly careful to isolate the infected premises, and in the instances of school children have rigidly excluded all children from the infected, and sometimes the adjoining houses from school attendance. I have also adopted the same method of examining children attending school, as described in my last report, and it is satisfactory to have to record this year only 9 cases of Scarlet Fever in 4 houses, as against 44 in 31 houses in 1894, and 89 cases in 54 houses in 1893; and only 2 cases of Diphtheria (both imported) in 1 house, as against 9 cases in 9 houses in 1894, and 7 cases in 7 houses in 1893.

(2) The following further action, as adopted by my predecessor, was taken for preventing the spread of some of these diseases:—

Disinfectants were supplied, and their proper use explained ; nuisances, when found on the premises, were abated as far as was practicable ; the well water, when suspected, was analysed ; and after the recovery, death, or removal of the sick, the final cleansing and disinfecting of the houses and articles were secured, the first stage of the disinfection, viz., that by sulphur-fumigation, having been performed at most of the cottages by the Sanitary Inspector. Infected articles were removed from most of the houses, together with the patients, and from many other houses after the illnesses were over and were disinfected by the Washington Lyons' Disinfector at the Isolation Hospital, and compensation was given when any infected articles were destroyed.

VI.—Guildford, Godalming, and Woking Joint Hospital Board.

I. Isolation Hospital.

Previous to the constitution of the Parish of Woking as an Urban District, at the end of 1893, and in the early part of the same year, the Local Government Board issued their Provisional Order forming the Guildford Rural, Guildford Urban, and Godalming Urban Sanitary Districts into a United District, for the purpose of providing an Isolation Hospital for the joint use of persons residing in the United District, and the Order was subsequently confirmed by Parliament, The Parish of Woking was then included in the Guildford Rural District. and shortly after the formation of this Parish into a separate Urban Sanitary District, the new Authority made application for the admission of their District into the existing United District.

An Order was issued by the Local Government Board in 1894 under Article XXI. of the Provisional Order of 1893, and under the style of the " Guildford, Godalming, and Woking Joint Hospital Board," Woking was henceforth entitled to two representatives on the Board, Guildford Rural five, Guildford Urban four, and Godalming two. The representations were based on the respective populations and not on the rateable valuations.

At present there is accomodation for 40 patients, allowing each patient 2000 cubic feet air space and 140 square feet floor space per bed.

This number of patients should never be exceeded.

In the same year the Joint Board purchased the Guildford Rural Sanitary Authority's Isolation Hospital, Woodbridge (established in 1885) for the sum of £5,926 and one acre of land belonging to the Guildford Corporation and adjoining the Hospital for £315.

During the past year a new Laundry and Mortuary were erected on the plans previously approved by the Local Government Board ; and a Washington Lyons Steam Disinfector was purchased and fixed in the place of the old Hot Air Chamber, which after many years service had become quite inefficient. The total cost of these alterations and additions amounted to £1,360 18s. 8d.

2. *Isolation for Small-pox Patients.*

The negotiations which were in progress at the end of 1894, between Mr. Richard Garton and other inhabitants of Worplesdon, with the view of preventing the Joint Board using the acquired cottage and site on Whitmoor Common, came to an end at the beginning of the last year, as no settlement satisfactory to the Joint Board could be arrived at.

The plaintiffs therefore served notice of motion for an injunction to restrain the Joint Board from using the site or any existing buildings or any buildings to be erected thereon for the purpose of treating small-pox patients. Before the hearing of the motion could come on, the plaintiffs applied for an interim injunction. This application was heard before Mr. Justice North, in the High Court of Chancery, last March, when his lordship refused to grant this, but gave leave that further motion might be made to him should the site be used for small-pox patients before the trial of the action. At a subsequent application of the plaintiffs he gave them leave to amend the writ by joining the Attorney General as a party.

The action was afterwards transferred to Mr. Justice Kekewich's Court, and came on for trial before him in November. The Joint Board disclaiming any intention to use the present buildings for the purpose of the reception of small-pox patients, his lordship refused to grant the plaintiffs the injunction they asked for.

3. *Synopsis of Cases in the Isolation Hospital, 1895.*

Sixty-eight patients were treated in the Hospital during the year 1895. At the commencement of the year there were remaining in

Hospital 6 patients—namely, *Scarlet Fever*, 4, and *Diphtheria*, 2. Of these 4 *Scarlet Fever* patients 2 belonged to the Guildford Rural District, and 2 to the Woking Urban District; whilst the 2 *Diphtheria* patients belonged to the Borough of Guildford. During the year there were 62 fresh admissions—namely, *Scarlet Fever*, 52; *Diphtheria*, 7; and *Enteric Fever*, 3. Of the 52 cases of *Scarlet Fever*, 19 belonged to the Guildford Rural District, 17 to the Borough of Guildford, 9 to the Borough of Godalming, and 7 to the Woking Urban District. Of the 7 admissions from *Diphtheria*, 2 belonged to the Guildford Rural District, 4 to the Borough of Guildford, and 1 to the Borough of Godalming. Of the 3 cases of *Enteric Fever*, 1 came from the Woking Urban District, and 1 each from the Boroughs of Guildford and Godalming.

There were 2 deaths in the Institution, 1 from *Diphtheria*, and 1 from *Enteric Fever*. Both patients came from Godalming, and the latter was moribund on admission.

There was only one “return case” of *Scarlet Fever* during the year.

The number of persons who were admitted into the Hospital, and the number who died there in each year, since the hospital was opened, with the nature of their illness, is shown in the following Table :—

From what Districts	YEARS.	Small-pox.		Scarlatina.		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.	
		Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Guildford (Rural)	1885	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1886	2	1	4	...	2	...	...	...
	1887	...	...	25	1	8	1	5	3
	1888	...	...	14	2	4	...	7	2
	1889	...	...	54	1	3	2	11	5
	1890	...	...	18	...	5	...	9	...
	1891	...	...	12	...	14	4	2	1
	1892	...	...	31	1	19	2	2	...
	1893	...	...	80	...	94	33	1	...
	1894	...	...	24	...	30	6	...	...
Guildford (Urban)	1895	...	...	19	...	2	...	...	...
	1893	14	4	12	...	23	12	1	...
	1894	...	...	11	...	17	5	...	...
Godalming (Urban)	1895	...	...	17	...	4	...	1	...
	1893	...	...	9	...	...	...	1	...
	1894	..	...	7	...	1	...	...	...
Woking	1895	...	...	9	...	1	1	1	1
	1894	...	...	33	...	4	1	...	...
* Farnham (Rural)	1895	...	...	7	...	...	...	1	...
* Dorking (Rural)	1894	...	...	9	...	3	1	...	...
	1894	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...

* Admitted by Accident.

VII.—Sewage Disposal Systems, etc.

1. *Systematic Scavenging.*

Before the District was constituted an Urban Authority no system of any kind for the disposal of sewage and house refuse existed. Shortly after the District was so constituted a system of scavenging for the Woking Station and Maybury Ward was introduced. The work consists of emptying about 520 pail-closets weekly, whilst the house refuse is removed from about 980 houses fortnightly. Plant, consisting of pump, three water-tight cesspool carts, hose, &c., were purchased (cost £140) to enable the Authority to make arrangements for the emptying and cleansing of cesspools in these Wards. Additional plant was purchased during the year to meet the increased demands.

The Authority, free of charge, provide for (a) the removal every week of the contents of all earth or pail-closets; (b) and the removal of ordinary house refuse every fortnight. Arrangements are made also for (c) the emptying of cesspools in the above-named Ward, and the carting away of the contents thereof, at a charge varying according to the size of the cesspool, the tariff being regulated on a very fair sliding scale.

During the year 490 cesspools were emptied and cleansed, whilst upwards of 1000 loads of refuse were removed in this Ward.

The system of scavenging as adopted in this Ward has been so successful and so appreciated that it might be well extended to other populous parts of the parish, except that a comprehensive Drainage Scheme will shortly be adopted.

The question of the Drainage of the Station Estate again engaged the serious attention of the Council for a considerable portion of the year. Two important actions under Sect. 47 of the Public Health Act, 1875 affecting the emptying of cesspools came before the Guildford County Bench in March.

(a) In the first action the Council summoned Mr. W. J. Engall of Guildford, in that being the occupier he allowed the contents of a cesspool to overflow in Stanley Road. Mr. Engall had built in this road some nineteen cottages, all of which drained into a large cesspit

situated partly under the back-yard of one of the cottages and partly under some ground adjoining, and which belonged to and was in the occupation of the defendant. Proof having been given of this, though not himself contributing to the nuisance, he was fined the full penalty, and ordered to pay the amount expended by the Council in abating the nuisance. Notice of appeal was given but subsequently withdrawn.

The importance of this conviction is very great. Here were several cottages draining into a common cesspit, and it had been most difficult in the past to obtain a conviction against each contributor. It is now, however, quite clear that under similar circumstances a conviction can be best obtained against the occupier beneath whose ground the cesspit is actually situated.

(b) The second case was a similar summons against Messrs. J. and N. Van den Bergh, also in respect of a cesspool on the Station Estate. In this case some seventeen houses drained into a cesspool which was situate under land of which the defendants ^{here} ~~was~~ proved to be owner and occupier, and a conviction was obtained with the same result as in the previous case.

2. *Drainage Scheme.*

In the month of February the Local Government Board issued their Report as to the enquiry held by their Inspector, Major-General H. D. Crozier, in the previous November as to the drainage of the Station and Maybury Ward, and the application of the late Woking Board to borrow £30,000 for the execution of the scheme propounded by Mr. W. H. Radford, M.Inst., C.E., of Nottingham.

The Local Government Board intimated that they did not propose to further consider the application made by the late Local Board to borrow £30,000 for the Drainage of the Station and Maybury Ward. The letter from the Board further stated that any such scheme should provide for the following areas :— (1) The Station and Maybury Ward ; (2) The portion of St. John's Ward about Kiln Bridge and the Barracks now in course of construction ; (3) The Village of Woking. And further that provision should be made in the scheme for the inclusion of Knaphill as soon as that place is found in need of drainage.

The Council therefore took steps to formulate a new scheme for the drainage of their District, and Mr. W. Santo Crimp, M. Inst., C.E., of the firm of Messrs. John Taylor, Sons, & Santo Crimp, Great George St., Westminster, was instructed by the Council to propound a scheme.

In November Mr. Santo Crimp presented his scheme, and application was thereupon made to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow £50,000 to carry out the scheme, of which the following is an epitome :—

“ The scheme provides for the drainage of the following Wards : (a) Station and Maybury, (b) St. John’s and Goldsworth, (c) Village and Mayford, and (d) the future inclusion of the Knaphill and Brookwood Ward. It involves the construction of about 25 miles of sewers, all of which are designed to have a minimum velocity of two feet per second when running half full. Adequate means for flushing the system are provided, and it is intended to ventilate the system by means of shafts carried up several feet above the street level, the manhole and ventilating covers acting at the street level as air inlets. Nearly all the sewage from the Maybury and Station, and St. John’s and Goldsworth Wards will gravitate to the proposed sewage farm ; less than 10 per cent of that area requiring to be pumped. Woking Village and Mayford, on the other hand, lie at such a low level that all the sewage of these districts must be pumped, and it is intended to perform that work at the outfall works, where machinery will be required for dealing with sludge. On arriving at the outfall works all the sewage will be dealt with in settling tanks provided for the purpose, the chemical treatment to be adopted being the most effective available for the time being ; probably it will take the form of lime and sulphate of alumina. After clarification in the tanks, the sewage will pass on to the land which is to be laid out as an absorption area, the purified effluent eventually finding its way by means of underground gravel beds into the river Wey. It is anticipated that by the time the works are completed the sewage of at least 10,000 people will at once be dealt with at the farm, but the proposed works are intended for about twice that number of persons. ”

The estimated cost of £50,000 includes the purchase of the land.

The reply to the application had not been received before the end of the year.

VIII.—Summary of General Progress and other Applications of the Sanitary Acts.

1. *Sanitary Committee.*

A Sanitary Committee was again appointed, to whom the Council delegated powers with reference to nuisances, water supply, infectious diseases, disposal of sewage and refuse, the supervision of slaughter-houses, dairies, cowsheds and milk shops.

2. *The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.*

Apart from the immense value of the steps that have been promptly taken to prevent the spread of disease, the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act has been the means of bringing about numerous fresh inspections as distinguished in this respect from routine inspections. The value of the Act in this relation is apt to be lost sight of, and the value is particularly great because it leads to the discovery of sanitary defects at a time when people are most willing to recognize their importance, and to further our efforts to get them remedied.

3. *The Surrey County Council Zymotic Returns.*

The Medical Officer of Health of the Administrative County, organized and commenced in January the monthly collection from and subsequent distribution to every Medical Officer of Health in Surrey, of the various monthly Notification returns from every Sanitary District in the County, together with the returns of the other Zymotic Diseases where ascertained to be prevalent. These monthly returns were collected the first two or three days of the month, and as a rule during the first week of each month a complete printed summary of the returns from every Sanitary District in the County was in the hands of each Medical Officer of Health. These monthly summaries proved most valuable in showing the relative prevalence of all Zymotic Diseases in the several Sanitary Districts, and so putting the officers of the various authorities on the alert when infection from without threatened to invade their own Districts.

4 *Midwives, and the deaths of Children.*

An Inquest was held in February, before the Coronor for West Surrey, on the death of two children, aged two months and six weeks respectively, who both died from pneumonia, attributed by a Medical Practitioner who gave evidence, to blood poisoning produced by the midwife using her materials and appliances to all children. Other deaths had occurred under similar circumstances, and there was no doubt in the minds of the jury, the Coroner, the Medical Officer of Health of the County, and myself, as to the theory which traced the pneumonia to blood poisoning. Dr. Seaton expressed an opinion that such cases should be notified and might come under Erysipelas. Rules were afterwards drawn up for the guidance of the Midwife in future. A third inquest was held in November as to the death of a child aged two days; and in this case the same midwife registered the death as due to "Prematurity and Convulsions," but an inquest was held, and a verdict was returned of "want of proper care and nourishment owing to neglect."

5. *Gipsies.*

During the year numerous complaints were addressed to the Council as to the Gipsy encampments at Star Hill and Kiln Bridge, which were from time to time duly considered by the Authority. It was eventually decided to take proceedings against the owners of the land, and for that purpose an application was made to the Guildford County Magistrates for a summons under Sect. 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and this was refused.

The Council then appealed to the Local Government Board, but with no better results, no bye-laws having been framed dealing with the subject.

In the autumn of the year the land at Star Hill was disposed of, thus ridding the District of one of the encampments at the cost of increasing the nuisance at Kiln Bridge.

On December 2nd, before Mr. Justice Romer, in the High Court, a very important case affecting Gipsy Encampments was tried by the Isleworth and District Council *v.* Smith and others, and decided in

their favour. It was at first thought that this case was almost on a parallel with ours, and the Clerk was accordingly instructed to obtain particulars from the Isleworth Authority, with a view to proceedings being taken. From the information received it appeared that the decision arrived at was chiefly based upon the fact that the district in question was an exceedingly densely populated one, and the Council were advised that they would have great difficulty in successfully contesting their case, on account of the Rural character of Kiln Bridge and Arthur's Bridge compared with the situation of the camp at Isleworth.

6. *Rivers Pollution Prevention Act, 1876.*

In consequence of the Urban District Council having approved of and submitted a Sewage Disposal Scheme to the Local Government Board, the Thames Conservancy Board granted the Authority an extension of time for dealing with the pollution of the Bourne Brook which enters Horsell Parish near Arthur's Bridge.

7. *Building Bye-laws.*

The past year was a very busy one so far as it relates to the erection of new houses in the parish. The number of plans approved was greatly in excess of any previous year, and amounted to 346 new houses, and of this number 155 have either been erected or are in course of erection. The majority of them are in the Woking Station and Maybury Ward.

8. *Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.*

No proceedings under this Act have been taken during the year. Eight houses at Knaphill which were condemned during the late Authority's tenure of office, still remain unoccupied, no steps having been taken to render the premises habitable.

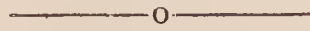
9. *Dairies', Cow Sheds', and Milk Shops' Order.*

Number of registered cowkeepers, dairymen, and purveyors of milk carrying on business at the commencement of the year	22
Number since registered	2
Number of registered premises inspected during the year ..	24

Total number of visits paid during the year	26
Number of cow sheds and dairies at which improvements in the lighting, ventilation, paving, drainage, means of cleaning, or water supply were made during the year	1
Number of cow sheds or dairies which were found in a filthy state	1
Number of premises at which the milk vessels were found in an unclean state	Nil

10. Slaughter-house Act, 1888.

Since the adoption of the Bye-laws of the Slaughter-house Act, 1888, only one new Slaughter-house has been erected, and this has been inspected from time to time.



The Sanitary Inspector's Report and certain statistical tables will be found at the end of this Report.

In conclusion, I have to thank Dr. A. J. Howlin, the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, and Mr. G. J. Wooldridge, the Council's Surveyor, for their valuable assistance in drawing up this Report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. WELLINGTON LAKE.

IX.—Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1895.

Number of complaints as to non-removal of house refuse, &c., received in writing	..	..	..	..	11
Number of nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	526

Particulars of work done by Owners or Occupiers, for Abatement of Nuisances, in compliance with notice:—

Number of privies, drains, cesspools, ditches <i>cleansed</i> , and of accumulations or deposits <i>removed</i>	..	..	..	490
Number of new privies provided	..	..	..	10
Number of old privies reconstructed as pail-closets or otherwise				8
Number of premises at which the drains were trapped, or other- wise improved, or disconnected from the house pipes	..			6
Number of premises at which new drains or cesspools were provided	..	..	..	5
Number of houses at which injurious overcrowding was abated				Nil
Number of houses which were cleansed, repaired, or provided with efficient ventilation	..	..	..	6
Number of premises where animals were kept in a filthy condition	..	..	..	2

WATER SUPPLY:—

Number of samples of water analysed	..	..	..	23
Number of houses to which water was supplied by owners after notice	..	..	..	17

G. J. WOOLDRIDGE.

X.—Appendix.

I. TABLE OF DEATHS in the District during the year 1895, classified according to Diseases and Ages; and showing also the Population of the District and the Births therein during the year.

[illegible]

The subjoined numbers are *not included* in the above in judging of the mortality of the District.

[illegible]

The subjoined numbers must be *added* to the above in judging of the mortality in this District.

[illegible]

TABLE II.

Showing the Sickness recorded in the District inclusive of Public Institutions, from the under-mentioned Zymotic Diseases in each quarter of the Year 1895.

Quarters of the Year.	Aged.	Small Pox.			Scarlet Fever			Diphtheria.			Enteric Fever.			Membranous Group.			Puerperal Fever.			Erysipelas		
		Cases.	Houses invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases	Houses invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses invaded.	Removed to Hospital.
	Under 5 or Over 5																					
January to March	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
		.....	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	
April to June	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	
	
July to September	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	
	
October to December	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	
	
Total in 1895.	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	
	
Total in 1894	Under 5 5 & over	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	
	

* Ten of these were at St. Peter's Home, and one at the Mayford Industrial School.

TABLE III.

Showing the estimated Population, the Annual Birth-rate, and certain Death-rates for the eleven years 1885—1895.

Year.	Population.	Number of Births.	Birth-rate per 1000.	Number of Deaths.	Death-rate per 1000.
1885	6850	252	36·5	95	13·8
1886	7050	249	35·2	118	16·7
1887	7250	261	36·0	74	10·5
1888	7450	232	31·1	84	11·3
1889	7650	223	29·1	107	14·0
1890	7850	272	34·5	128	16·3
1891	8050	239	29·5	107	13·3
1892	8250	230	24·2	134	16·2
1893	8450	283	33·4	100	11·7
1894	8650	274	31·5	105	12·1
1895	8856	289	32·6	134	16·2

Mean Annual Birth-rate for last ten years 31·7.

Mean Annual Death-rate for last ten years 13·8.

The deaths of Parishioners in the Workhouse, Royal County Hospital, Brookwood Asylum and Isolation Hospital are included in this Table ; but the population and deaths in the Woking Public Institutions are excluded.

